

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claim 1 is currently amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is self-evident and can be further found in Figures 1, 2, and 4, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Herman (U.S. Patent No. 6,786,696, hereafter "Herman") in view of Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,855,033, hereafter "Jones"); and Claims 5-6 were rejected as obvious over Herman in view of Jones and further in view of the Examiner's assertion that undisclosed features are matters of design choice. Claims 3-4 and 7-8 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 3-4 and 7-8.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as Claim 1 has been amended to delete the word "substantially" and to replace the phrase "at least one half of a circular shape" with "semicircular shape" where appropriate. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 and Claims 2, 5-6 and 9 depending therefrom is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 9 as obvious over Herman in view of Jones, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part:

a front engagement member integrally molded in the vicinity of a base portion of the front seal fin, the front engagement member having a planar front engagement face able to engage with a front locating portion of a jig to be used for the grinding, and the front engagement face located in a first plane positioned back from a virtual plane including the one side

of the platform and offset forward from the face of the recess toward the virtual plane;

a rear engagement member integrally molded in the vicinity of a base portion of the rear seal fin, the rear engagement member having a planar rear engagement face able to engage with a rear locating portion of the jig, and the rear engagement face located in a second plane different from the first plane back from the virtual plane and offset forward from the face of the recess toward the virtual plane; and

Accordingly, the front engagement face and the rear engagement face are both offset forward from the face of the recess. Additionally, the front engagement face is in a different plane than the rear engagement face. In other words the front engagement face is offset from the rear engagement face and the face of the recess.

In contrast, no reasonable combination of the features of Herman with those of Jones includes a front engagement face offset from a rear engagement face wherein both the front and rear engagement faces are offset from the face of a recess.

As depicted in the annotated figure included with the outstanding Office Action, Herman describes an area D, described in the outstanding Office Action as a front engagement member, and an area F described in the outstanding Office Action as a rear engagement member. However, the area D and area F are not offset from each other. Rather, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and the annotated figure included in the outstanding Office Action, the areas D and F are on the same plane relative to the face of the recess.

Similarly, Jones does not disclose either 1) a front engagement face located in a first plane positioned back from a virtual plane including one side of a platform and offset forward from the face of the recess toward the virtual plane, or 2) a rear engagement face in a second plane different from the first plane and located back from the virtual plane and offset forward from the face of the recess toward the virtual plane as recited in amended Claim 1. Instead, Jones describes an unnumbered front wall positioned below reference number (56) and located on a platform (54). The unnumbered wall is completely smooth and has no

engagement members much less engagement members with front engagement faces offset from one another. Accordingly, Jones does not remedy the deficiency discussed above regarding Herman.

As neither Herman nor Jones, alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses front and rear engagement faces each offset from the face of the recess, back from a virtual plane and offset from one another, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicants further respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2, 5, 6, and 9, depending directly or indirectly from Claim 1, patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1.

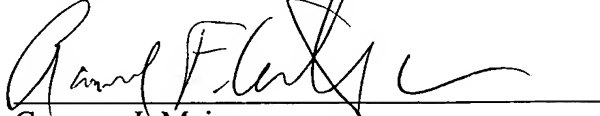
Additionally, the front and rear engagement faces are configured to engage with a jig. The portions D and F of Herman are located deep inside the recess portion. Therefore, the portions D and F are not suitable for engaging a jig. As Herman does not discuss the portions D and F (labels D and F are provided in the outstanding Office Action), Herman cannot disclose that the portions D and F are capable of engaging a jig. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references for at least this additional reason.

Further, to facilitate engagement with a jig, dependent Claims 5 and 6 recite the feature of the front and rear engagement faces recessed to a depth of 0.7 mm. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that not only are the portions D and F are not "engagement faces" as recited in amended Claim 1, but the portions D and F are not engagement faces recessed to a depth of 0.7 mm as recited in Claims 5 and 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 5 and 6 patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the additional reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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